Historic Property Report

Historic Name: Langley Library

Property ID: 108591

Location

Address: 104 2nd St, Langley, WA 98260

Tax No/Parcel No: R33034-134-3550

Geographic Areas: Island County, LANGLEY Quadrangle, Langley Certified Local Government, T30R03E34, Congressional District 2, 10

Information

Number of stories:

Construction Dates:

Construction Type	Year	Circa
Built Date	1923	☐

Historic Use:

Category	Subcategory
Education	Education - Library
Education	Education - Library

Historic Context:

Category
Politics/Government/Law
Architecture
Community Planning and Development

Architect/Engineer:

Category	Name or Company
Architect	Dernier, Floyd A.

Thematics:

Local Registers and Districts

Name	Date Listed	Notes

Project History

Project Number, Organization, Project Name	Resource Inventory	SHPO Determination	SHPO Determined By, Determined Date
090914-07-COMM, , City of Langley Library		Determined Not Eligible	, 9/9/2014
2020-06-03941, , Remodel Langley Library		Determined Eligible	Holly Borth, 6/15/2020

Photos

Exterior.jpg

east & north

east

south

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Inventory Details - 7/30/2010

Common name:	Langley Library
Date recorded:	7/30/2010
Field Recorder:	M. Sheridan
Field Site number:	L158
SHPO Determination	090914-07-COMM determined on 9/9/2014

Detail Information

Characteristics:

Category	Item
Cladding	Wood - Clapboard
Roof Material	Asphalt/Composition
Plan	Irregular
Foundation	Concrete - Poured
Structural System	Wood - Balloon Frame
Roof Type	Gable
Cladding	Wood - Shingle

Styles:

Period	Style Details
Early 20th Century American Movements (1900-1940)	Craftsman

Surveyor Opinion

Property appears to meet criteria for the National Register of Historic Places:	No
Property is located in a potential historic district (National and/or local):	No
Property potentially contributes to a historic district (National and/or local):	No

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Significance narrative:

The library was initiated in 1916 by the Ladies Improvement Club, which was founded to create a better, more beautiful Langley. Men were soon admitted to the club and its name changed to the Langley Civic Club, and the library became its first major project. The land was deeded to Helen Coe by the Anthes Investment Company, and deeded by Ms. Coe to the Civic Club for the purpose of constructing a library within six months. She also donated $500--a very substantial sum-- toward the building fund.

The original part of the library was based on a bungalow house plan (#541) by architect Floyd A. Dernier for the Lumberman's Service Association, which distributed mail order plans from the 1920s until 1934. The library was dedicated in January 1923 to the heroes of The World War. A plaque stating this was placed to the right of the door in the east facade. Helen Coe resigned as mayor to become the first librarian. The first books were donated and stored in a shed at the Primavera Building until the library was ready. The library building also served as a community center and a meeting location for many civic organizations and churches. The town council met there in 1929.

In 1943, the Civic Club deeded the land and building to the city, which thereafter contributed to the library fund. In 1961, the town signed a contract with Sno-Isle Regional Library to manage the library. In 1980 the building was expanded with a new entry area and in 1994 a new western section was completed. This expansion more than doubled the size of the original buildings; nearly $400,00 in grants and contributions obtained by the Friends of the Library, plus city funds, paid for the expansion.

Physical description:

The library is located on a prominent corner on Cascade Avenue between First and Second streets, next door to City Hall. The original main entry faces east, with a clipped side gable roof; above the entry is an arched hood supported by paired decorative brackets. The door and the widnows have wide wood surrounds. A dedication plaque is to the right of the door. Concrete stairs with wood and metal railings lead to this entry. Cladding is clapboard with shingles on the upper portions on the north and south elevations. The north elevation has three windows with original 8-over-1 wood sash. The east elevation has four similar original windows. Windows on the south side have newer 8-over-1 sash with metal sash. The 1980 entry is behind (west of) this original building, accessed by a concrete ramp.

Bibliography:

Waterman, Bob. Langley Landmark Nomination Form, Langley Library.
Lila McRae, South Whidby Record, January 22, 2002.
Architectural plans, South Whidbey Historical Society.
Woodruff, Fannie S. The 20th Anniversary of the Langley Civic Club, September 8, 1936.
Whidby Record, September 17, 1936.

Historic Property Report

Historic Name: Langley Library

Property ID: 108591

Inventory Details - 6/13/2020

Common name:

Date recorded: 6/13/2020

Field Recorder: Brian Rush

Field Site number:

SHPO Determination

Detail Information

Surveyor Opinion

Property appears to meet criteria for the National Register of Historic Places: No